

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 42, 49, and 50 as shown below.

1. to 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A photoelectric conversion device comprising:

~~an electron-acceptive charge transfer region;~~

~~an electron donative charge transfer region;~~

~~a light absorption region for photoelectric conversion, existing between the charge transfer regions; and~~

a first charge transfer region for accepting electrons from the light absorption region;

a second charge transfer region for donating electrons to the light absorption region; and

two electrode regions between which the first and second charge transfer regions and the light absorption region are positioned,

wherein the light absorption region is positioned between the charge transfer regions,

wherein the light absorption region is a semiconductor, and either of the first and second charge transfer regions is a semiconductor acicular crystal region comprising an aggregate of acicular crystals, and

whercin the acicular crystals comprise a metal oxide.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) A photoelectric conversion device according to claim 42, wherein the metal oxide is titanium oxide, zinc oxide or tin oxide.

45. (Previously Presented) A photoelectric conversion device according to claim 42, wherein an aspect ratio of the acicular crystals is 5 or more when the aspect ratio is defined as the ratio of the length of the acicular crystals to the diameter of the acicular crystals or as the ratio of the length of the acicular crystals to the length of the shortest line in a transverse cross-section of the acicular crystals passing the gravity center of the acicular crystals.

46. (Previously Presented) A photoelectric conversion device according to claim 42, wherein the light absorption region comprises an amorphous semiconductor or a direct transition semiconductor.

47. (Previously Presented) A photoelectric conversion device according to claim 42, wherein the acicular crystals bear particles.

48. (Previously Presented) A photoelectric conversion device according to claim 42, wherein the acicular crystals are joined to a surface of a substrate and the angle between the axial direction of the acicular crystals and the surface of the substrate is 60 degrees or more.

49. (Currently Amended) A photoelectric conversion device comprising:
an electron acceptive charge transfer region;
~~an electron donative charge transfer region;~~
a light absorption region for photoelectric conversion, ~~existing between the~~
charge transfer regions; and
a first charge transfer region for accepting electrons from the light
absorption region;
a second charge transfer region for donating electrons to the light absorption
region; and
two electrode regions between which the charge transfer regions and the
light absorption region are positioned,
wherein the light absorption region is positioned between the first and
second charge transfer regions,
wherein the light absorption region is a semiconductor, and either of the
first and second charge transfer regions is a semiconductor acicular crystal region
comprising an aggregate of acicular crystals, and
wherein the acicular crystals comprise CuI or NiO.

50. (Currently Amended) A photoelectric conversion device comprising:
~~an electron acceptive charge transfer region;~~
~~an electron donative charge transfer region;~~

a light absorption region for photoelectric conversion; ~~existing between the~~
~~charge transfer regions; and~~

a first charge transfer region for accepting electrons from the light
absorption region;

a second charge transfer region for donating electrons to the light absorption
region; and

two electrode regions between which the charge transfer regions and the
light absorption region are positioned,

wherein the light absorption region is positioned between the first and
second charge transfer regions.

wherein the light absorption region is a semiconductor, and either of the
first and second charge transfer regions is a semiconductor acicular crystal region
comprising an aggregate of acicular crystals, and

wherein an aspect ratio of the acicular crystals is 10 or more when the
aspect ratio is defined as the ratio of the length of the acicular crystals to the diameter of
the acicular crystals or as the ratio of the length of the acicular crystals to the length of the
shortest line in a transverse cross-section of the acicular crystals passing the gravity center
of the acicular crystals.